

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02163 261112Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 SNM-02 H-01 INR-07 SS-15

IO-13 OES-07 /056 W

-----079428 261255Z /42 R

R 260855Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3873

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: HEARINGS OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND
CONTROL, JULY 12-13

REF: (A) STATE 166602, (B) STATE 166778, (C) RANGOON 2075

1. AS REPORTED REF C WE HAVE INFORMAL INDICATIONS THAT GUB
OFFICIALS, REPORTEDLY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AND MINISTER
OF INFORMATION IN PARTICULAR, WERE UNHAPPY WITH VOA'S
REPORTING ON THE HEARINGS. APPARENTLY THEIR MAIN COMPLAINT
WAS THE PROMINENCE GIVEN TO CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S COMMENTS
BELITTling BURMA'S ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORTS. WE HAVE ALSO
HEARD THAT THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC REACTION OR MEDIA
MENTION OF THE HEARINGS. TO DATE THERE HAVE BEEN NONE.

2. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AMBASSADOR OSBORN STRESSED TO
COL. TIN OO THE EXCEPTIONALLY EFFECTIVE TESTIMONY OF
ADMINISTRATION WITNESSES. CHARGE AND OTHER EMBOFFS HAVE
MADE THE SAME POINT WITH U SHWE THAN, COL. MYO AUNG AND
COL. KO GYI AND GAVE THEM COPIES OF THE PREPARED STATEMENTS
OF DR. BOURNE, MS. FALCO AND MR. OAKLEY. WHILE NON-
COMMITAL THEY SEEMED TO ACCEPT THE POINT THAT THE PREEMPTIVE
BUY FARCE HAD NEVER BEEN SO DEVATATINGLY REBUTTED IN A
CONGRESSIONAL FORUM AND THAT WE VIEWED THE HEARINGS AS A
DEFINITE PLUS.

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3. I DO NOT EXPECT ANY PUBLIC, OR PROBABLY PRIVATE,
REACTION AND BELIEVE THAT THE PROSPECTIVE PROVISION OF
TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WILL GO A LONG WAY IN OVERCOMING THE
DAMAGE OF CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S REMARKS. NEVERTHELESS,
AMBASSADOR TIN LAT'S CALL ON MS. FALCO AND THE REACTION
HERE TO VOA COVERAGE OF THE WOLFF HEARINGS HIGHLIGHTS BOTH

THE GUB'S CONTINUED POLITICAL DISCOMFORT WITH REGARD TO
PUBLICITY ABOUT THE INCREASINGLY CLOSE NARCOTICS RELATION-
SHIP WITH US, AND ITS EXTREME SENSITIVITY TO CRITICISM
(NO MATTER HOW ILL-FOUNDED) AND TO ANY PUBLIC HINT OF
"MEDDLING" IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
BARTLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 26-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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